



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 MARCH 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – California Governor Issues 'Stay Home' Order

(U) California issued a statewide “stay at home” order on Thursday for its 40 million residents. Governor Gavin Newsom’s directive, effective immediately, marks the largest and most sweeping government clampdown yet in the public health crisis brought on by the COVID-19 outbreak, which he predicted could infect more than half the state within eight weeks. Newsom said his ‘stay at home’ order was essential as modelling showed 56% of California’s 40 million people would contract the virus in the next eight weeks, and require nearly 20,000 more hospital beds than the state could provide.

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Foreign Minister Urges US to Keep Border Open for Trade and Work

(U) Mexico City – The Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said on Thursday that he held talks with the US Secretary of State and proposed that the two countries keep their shared border open for commerce and work, even as they seek to combat the coronavirus. Writing on social media, Ebrard said he had proposed that the measures the countries took to fight coronavirus “do not paralyze economic activity” and that his suggestions had been met with a “good disposition.”

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [AP News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Minnesota – Doctor Arrested at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Terrorism Charge

(U) Minneapolis – Muhammad Masood (28), a doctor working as a research coordinator in Rochester, Minnesota, was arrested Thursday on terrorism charges. Prosecutors say Masood, a licensed medical doctor from Pakistan, was in the US on a work visa. They allege that starting in January 2020, Masood made several statements to others, pledging his allegiance to ISIS and its leader. He expressed his desire to travel to Syria, to fight for ISIS, and to carry out attacks in the United States. Masood bought a plane ticket to travel to Amman, Jordan, and then planned to go to Syria from there. After Jordan closed its borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Masood switched his plans to fly to Los Angeles to meet with someone who he believed would help him travel in a cargo ship into ISIS territory.

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [KARE 11](#)

(U) New Mexico – Kirtland Airman Found with Arsenal

(U) Albuquerque – Senior Airman Charles Brent Justice (27), a US airman assigned to Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB), is in federal custody after military investigators searching his KAFB residence found a cache of 17 firearms, two silencers, large amounts of ammunition, bomb-making instructions, and photos of rifle magazines with the names of mass shooters written on them. Photographs found on his cellphone showed the names of mass shooters written in white ink on AR-15 compatible magazines. Other photographs were related to the Christchurch mosque shooting in New Zealand.

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [Military News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – State Department Warns Citizens Not to Travel Abroad Due to COVID-19

(U) Washington DC – The US State Department on Thursday warned American citizens not to travel abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic, issuing the highest possible level of travel advisory. The State Department urged Americans "in countries where commercial departure options remain available" to "arrange for immediate return to the United States, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period." The updated advisory also cautioned US citizens living abroad to "avoid all international travel." Many countries are experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and implementing travel restrictions and mandatory quarantines, closing borders, and prohibiting non-citizens from entry with little advance notice.

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Greece – Exarchia Drug Gang Dismantled, 13 Suspects Arrested

(U) Athens – Police said on Thursday they had dismantled a large drug ring operating in and around Exarchia Square in downtown Athens, leading to the arrest of 13 people. The gang reportedly comprised some 50 foreign nationals who peddled heroin, cocaine, and cannabis in the area, mainly during the evening hours. Police said they had monitored at least 200 drug transactions leading up to the time of arrest. Apart from the arrests, police said they also identified 16 other members of the gang, four of whom are currently detained in Greek prisons.

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [Ekathimerini](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Four Convicted for National Action Membership

(U) London – Four people were convicted on 19 March of being members of the banned extreme neo-Nazi group National Action. A jury at Birmingham Crown Court found three men and a woman guilty. The convictions were the culmination of an investigation into right wing terrorism. National Action became the first right wing organization to be banned by the government since World War II in December 2016. The group held meetings to discuss their ambitions for a race war while recruiting other young people to the group. Two members of the group amassed an arsenal of weapons and were obsessed with 'violent ethnic cleansing'.

SOURCE: 19 March 2020, [Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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